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Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin

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MARCH 1988

MAKING CONFERENCES WORK by Kathryn E. Ryan

As one of my colleagues commented, "I've always GONE to conferences--but I guess I never really thought about how one was put together." As that is probably the case for most of us, this report will attempt to fill in some gaps and share with you the exciting and overwhelming activity behind the scenes. Conferences do not take place by accident. I would like to show you what kinds of activities and planning make a conference work.

Having been a teacher for many years, I've found planning a conference similar to a unit plan. In both situations, the teacher/conference organizer acts as a facilitator to assess both the needs of the group and the resources--personal and material--to meet those needs within a specified time frame. As the assessment progresses, individuals with unique skills and/or information to share emerge from the group. These individuals create their own support networks which further expand the resources of the group. No one person feels that he or she stands alone. The strengths of each member contribute to the eventual success of the whole.

Unlike the classroom, one does not have time to develop the conference committee into a self-conscious entity within the allotted time frame. Despite monthly meetings members can feel disconnected and unfocused. In addition to a full professional and personal life, the work assumed by Conference Committee members can easily burn them out. When this happens, the situation can unravel further: it becomes harder to find members willing or

able to shoulder such responsibility. For those who continue, the effort can be numbing.

This year, Karen Quinn and I accepted our appointments as Co-chairs with the knowledge that in addition to creating a conference, our major task would be to create a committee structure which would begin to deal with these human needs. It was April--a very late start--before we had a committee; so the librarians of the state became our initial planning group. The 1987 conference was truly not only a statewide effort, but a regional one.

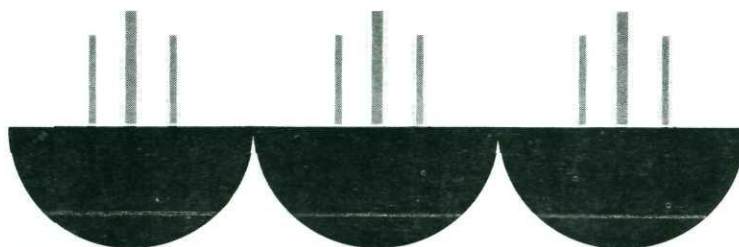
We sifted through the files of our predecessors looking for ways to create a structure, a timeline, a pool of resource persons. In February, we held an open brainstorming session on various aspects of the conference. At the New England Library Association Counterparts Day, we learned that our problems of continuity, planning, and transitions were not unique. NELA, taking a leadership role, began to organize a Conference on Conference Planning for August at Salve Regina College in Newport. It was held to discuss budgeting, time management, exhibit details, committee and facility selection, program development, evaluation forms, publicity, and a myriad of similar details. The Conference was to provide the support for the state committees and the de-isolation which we so much needed.

From April on, the RILA Conference

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Committee met to apply what Karen and I had learned and to break the conference planning into manageable sections and to give to our committee some of the support we had received.

Demand had been heavy for programs attractive to small and medium-sized children's and academic libraries. From some forty suggestions, we chose to build "strands" of programming rather than single programs. We hoped that this approach would better meet needs, involve more of the target communities, and draw better attendance--concerns of the exhibitors as well.

To meet the constraints of space, we planned to run four programs concurrently, rather than three. Providing more program options would keep each audience size more manageable and make it easier for participants to interact. We planned programs to last an hour with a half hour in between for questions, informal sharing, or visiting the exhibits.

We made efforts to solicit vendors in support of particular programs and to reach out to those who might have considered Rhode Island too small to be viable in the past. We offered exhibitors a second day, a complimentary lunch, prizes, coffee, and exclusive time throughout both days. They gave us a chance to see demonstrations of new products, meet old friends--many of whom are RILA members--and the means to underwrite the conference. Out of more than one hundred vendors approached, personally or by mail, using RILA, NELA, and ALA lists, thirty-three attended. The Marriott extended our space by another ballroom. George Blanchard of Acme Bookbinding, who arranged our exhibits was again a valuable resource.

Other help was given by Joe Green of the Marriott who has worked with the Committee for two years. As we broached problems or concerns, he was quick to see alternatives and make suggestions to maximize use of the facility. Like George, he was able to provide continuity and thus free us to work on our own details.

COLA, through Joan Reeves and Anna Caruolo, did its first joint program with RILA. It drew librarians, trustees, and friends. The round table discussion format received enthusiastic responses from its audience. Joint programming with other

library organizations expands and deepens program offerings, and provides a cooperative network between library groups.

In October, the conference ran. According to the statistics, the conference succeeded beyond our expectations. Total attendance was 323: 190 on Monday, 133 on Tuesday. Attendance by school and academic librarians was "up" significantly. Evaluations were overwhelmingly positive and were returned in record numbers. Exhibitors were not as pleased, however. Only a small minority of respondents supported a second year of exhibits on both days. How to make two-day exhibits cost-effective is one of the most serious problems we will have to contend with.

Another problem we are working on is continuity of committee membership. Thus, we have decided that the past-president will serve on the committee as a resource person and Executive Board liaison. One chair will continue; the co-chair will have the opportunity to assume gradually responsibility without assuming full coordination of the conference. This arrangement will ensure better long-range planning. A paid position has been approved to handle some of the ongoing details of conference management and will also bring greater continuity and efficiency. Several committee members, some of whom had been able to attend the NELA program, are continuing with the committee, to be able to put into practice what they learned. Others have offered to help on particular aspects as needed. Ten tentative program agreements for 1988 were in place by the time the 1987 conference ran. We are in the process of re-evaluating and writing up our site requirements, similar to those used by NELA, in order to be able to commit to a site two to three years ahead. We compiled a handbook of policies and procedures. The Executive Board approved a five-year calendar of dates for publication through both NELA and ALA to enable vendors to plan ahead. (November 13-15, 1988; November 5-7, 1989; November 4-6, 1990; November 2-4, 1991; November 7-9, 1992)

What lies ahead? For 1988 we have planned program "strands" on collection development, management, signing for the hearing-impaired, young adult issues, planning and implementing library building renovation, and grant underwriting. Eventually, the com-

mittee envisions a book award to draw back more publishers, a joint RILA/RIEMA program and/or conference, and continuing education workshop credits for para-professionals and support staff.

For now, we can listen. We can dream. We can plan to make future conferences happen--with your help. If you'd like to join our committee, we'll try to give you a chance to try your wings in a larger context of librarianship without being overwhelmed or burned out. We welcome your participation on whatever level you can give it, whether as a committee member, or as provider of information and input. Our committee very much needs people to feel free to send us brochures from programs you've attended or other samples of publicity we could use. Suggestions for speakers or topics or exhibitors are all welcomed. In addition to committee membership and input from the organization at large, the Conference Committee does have an opening for an administrative assistant. A job description appears at the end of this article.

To those who helped make the 1987 Conference a success, thanks for your support and leadership. To those who see a place for their own skills to be used on a wider scale, I welcome your participation and involvement in the Conference Committee.

Kathryn E. Ryan is Circulation Supervisor at Salve Regina College, Newport, and Chair of the RILA Conference Committee.

Members of the Conference Committee:

Officers:

Kathryn Ryan, Chair

Paul Martin, Exhibits Coordinator

Jon Tryon, RILA Liaison

Carol Drought, Secretary

Vacant - Administrative Assistant

Other members:

Laurie Burke, Debbie Gormley, Brian Walsh, Kathleen MacAndrew, Karen Quinn, and Beverly Plouff

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, flexible 5 hrs./week; 10 months. Total allocated - \$2000.00 (about \$10/hr.) Duties to include:

Site selection - research and acquire specifications for conference sites; compile RILA specifications for hotel use

Scheduling - compiles schedules and reports to ALA, NELA, and other states and local library organizations.

Programming - maintains file of all relevant forms for planning/evaluation.

Exhibits - maintains/updates exhibitor mailing list; actively acquires lists from other library organizations. Prepares/ mails information for exhibitors. Collects registrations/fees from exhibitors, and sends appropriate responses. Coordinates exhibit hall set-up and tear-down. Arranges for preparation/distribution of attendees list for vendors. Collects exhibitor's evaluations.

Publicity - works with chairs and Bulletin staff to provide publicity for Bulletin and other state/local/region newsletters. Develops/maintains file of other library organizations, their newsletters, contact persons, deadlines, etc. Prepares/has printed for distribution pre-conference and conference program brochures, attendees badges, signs, etc.

Financial management - receives/transmits to Treasurer all receipts, payments, bills. Arranges with Treasurer for reimbursement of speakers fees, etc. Works with Committee to develop conference budget based on past/present figures.

Site management - coordinates staff for exhibits area, registration desk, AV coordination, speaker hosts, etc. Provides final meal count for hotel. Arranges with Treasurer to provide security for cash/checks collected during the conference, as well as for cash amount on hand for change.

Statistics - maintains statistical record of conference for purpose of evaluation/planning.

DON'T BE LATE IN '88!

RILA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
FORM ON PAGE --

THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT by Diane Pacheco

It was a day like many others. Perhaps it was an above average day because I was preparing for a program that I thought would be quite successful. There I was - relaxed, happy--and then the phone rang.

"Children's Department. May I help you?"

"I certainly hope so. I'd like you to explain the Theory of Relativity to my nine year old daughter."

In the "Bloom County" comic strip, one character has an anxiety closet filled with terrors buried in his subconscious. That telephone call triggered a reaction straight from my personal anxiety closet. In complete panic, I babbled, "Explain the Theory of Relativity??? I can't explain the Theory of Relativity! I've NEVER understood the Theory of Relativity!"

"Oh," murmured the disappointed mother. "I thought maybe you could look up a definition somewhere."

Ah-ha! Look it up? Of course! This was not Mr. Nicoletti springing a surprise quiz in ninth grade science class twenty years ago. This was a patron with a reference question. And really, what is reference anyway but the ultimate open-book exam? Once the panic had subsided, I was able to find a reasonably clear explanation of $E = MC^2$ that seemed to satisfy the caller, who perhaps was dealing with a problem similar to my own.

However, the episode made me think about other creatures lurking in my anxiety closet that are ready to jump out at a moment's notice. Many, of course, are from my childhood but some are more recent arrivals. Curiously, their age approximates quite closely the number of years I have been a librarian. For example...

"Where are the books on the Eastern Woodland Indians?"

Oh, no - not the Eastern Woodland Indians again. Every fall, every student in every grade in every school wants a book on the Eastern Woodland Indians. Yet every year the assignment catches me by surprise, rather like a Rhode Islander unprepared for the season's first snowfall who gasps, "You mean it's really going to snow in New England this winter?" Eastern Woodland Indians - I cringe at the very phrase.

And then there's the dreaded, "Where are the books on science projects?" The first student to ask is always the class eager-beaver who runs to the library after school the day the assignment is given. Years of experience have taught me this, and yet, I always hope the child is really from Muncie, Indiana, just visiting his grandmother for the week and trying to get a jump on his Hoosier classmates. And so I casually ask, "What school do you go to?"

"Middle School."

"The Barrington Middle School?"

"Yeah."

"So is anyone else at the Barrington Middle School going to do a science project this year?"

"Everybody. Got to. No choice."

The science project anxiety is not new to the closet, but it has grown over the years. It used to live there because I loathed science and despised having to do an annual science project. Adding to that, I now fear running out of science project books, because no matter how many I add to the collection, there are never enough.

Unfortunately, unlike real closets, anxiety closets never run out of room. A new fear can creep in, settle down, and wait for just the right moment to make its presence known. The next time you react to a patron's request by mentally screaming, "Oh no, not that!" you'll understand what I mean.

Diane Pacheco is a Children's Librarian at the Barrington Public Library.

president's message

Greetings:

The Executive Board has begun its year by initiating an all-day working session to examine our association and plan for the future. The Board, along with committee chairs, past presidents and other interested parties, compiled a list of directions the association needs to explore and some possible solutions to some organizational problems. So as we continue to publish our Bulletin, plan meetings, conferences and programs and try to react to any events that affect our library community, we are looking for ways to become a more effective and representative professional group. Our membership tops five hundred, and while a great number of you participate through committee work, we have much work ahead of us. The Executive Board would like to work with you to effect change and speed progress.

We ask you to call on us to share your ideas and more important, your energy. I'm looking forward to working with you and for you for the rest of my term.

Sincerely,

Catherine Mello Alves
President, RILA

bulletin board

- On January 11th, Rhode Island Commissioner of Education, Troy Earhart appointed a School Library Standards Review Group to study a draft of updated Rhode Island school library standards as proposed by the Rhode Island Educational Media Association (RIEMA). The new standards would replace those promulgated in 1963 and in effect since. The Review Group will be completing its work sometime this Spring, with the expectations that new standards will be official shortly thereafter.
- The New England Microcomputer Users Group (NEMICRO) and the New England Online Users Group (NENON) are jointly sponsoring, "Have We Arrived? Or Are We Still Getting There?", a workshop on the effective use of microcomputers, on March 24th, 9AM-3PM, at Bentley College, Waltham, MA. For more information contact Joanne Williams at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute at 617-793-5411.
- "Planning for Electronic Reference" is the title of a program to be sponsored by the Boston Library Consortium and the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library System on March 29th at the Boston Public Library. A fee of \$25 is being charged to non-consortium members who wish to attend. Write: Boston Library Consortium, Room 339, Boston Public Library, 666 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02117.
- The 1988 Annual Meeting of New England Archivists will take place March 25-26 at Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA. For more information contact: Barbara Meloni, Wellesley College Archives, 617-235-0320, Ext. 2128.
- Literacy Volunteers of America-Rhode Island, Inc. will hold its 3rd Annual Conference on Saturday, April 30th, from 9AM to 2:30PM, at the Naval Education Training Center on the Newport Naval Base. The conference theme is "Learning Together: Students and Tutors" and it will feature workshops on student involvement, tutoring tips, board basics, and marketing. More information is available by calling LVA-RI at 861-0815.
- The New England Library Association (NELA) and Garber Travel are offering special packages to New Orleans for the American

Library Association's Annual Conference July 9-13. Discounted fares are available for librarians who wish to depart from Boston, Hartford, Providence, or New York and are available for travel as early as July 6th and as late as July 16th. Arrangements can be made by contacting Garber Travel, 9:30AM to 5:30PM Monday through Friday, at 617-787-0600 or 800-225-4570. Be sure to ask for the NELA Desk.

- The Public Relations Section of the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA) wants to locate the best library promotional materials produced during 1987 to recognize them at "Swap and Shop for Library PR and All That Jazz," a program to be held at the American Library Association's Annual Conference in New Orleans on Sunday July 10th from 11AM to 2PM. In addition to the traditional giveaway of library promotional materials, "Swap and Shop" will feature a special exhibit of materials which have been judged "Best of Show," a display of the John Cotton Dana Award winners, table talks by library public relations practitioners, and three mini-training sessions on library PR topics. Libraries are encouraged to submit 200-300 copies of their best library PR for display and giveaway at the program to: New Orleans Public Library, ALA/SWAP & SHOP ENTRIES, ATTN: John Deffel, 219 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70140. "HOLD FOR SWAP & SHOP 1988" should be marked in large bold letters on each box and entries must be received before June 30, 1988.
- The Executive Board of RILA has awarded Charlotte Schoonover a continuing education grant of \$160 for the pre-conference registration fee of the Public Library Association Conference to be held in Pittsburgh, April 26th and 27th.
- A study tour of children's and young adult literature in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland will be offered July 26 - August 11, 1988. The itinerary includes visits to Hans Christian Andersen sites, "Hamlet's Castle," the homes of Selma Lagerlof and Carl Larsson, publishing houses, national centers for youth literature, and countrysides rich with legends of Vikings and trolls. Authors, illustrators and critics will speak en route. Contact Dr. Mary Lou White, College of Education and Human Services, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435.

- Counterparts Day will be held at Salve Regina College in Newport, June 23-25. Preliminary plans call for an address by Willine Mahoney, Executive Director of the Illinois Library Association on Association management, followed by traditional counterparts sessions. A dinner at one of the Newport mansions is planned.

- "Books and food are natural companions.." So begins the preface to CHECK IT OUT: the Library Cooks, a selection of favorite recipes from Providence Public Library Staff Association members and friends. Wouldn't you like to try Mary Zammarelli's Fruit and Rice Holiday Cheese Pie or Dale Thompson's Egg McRalph? Books cost \$7.00 and are available from the PPL Circulation Department.

ALA 1988 MIDWINTER REPORT

by Carol K. DiPrete

ALA Midwinter Reports are always more fun to write than are the annual reports, mainly because of the time of year - winter. Even though this year's meeting was held in San Antonio, Texas, January 8-13th, getting there from Rhode Island was a challenge for many. Dallas even closed down for a while. Eventually those of us who were persistent did get to San Antonio along with 6,700 other brave souls. Ask Fay Zipkowitz about her travel to Midwinter and you will hear the worst of the stories from Rhode Island.

Indeed after we arrived, some business was conducted in Council and out. Major issues that emerged or resolved were that the NCATE (National Council of Accreditation on Teacher Education) Report was approved unanimously by Council which outlines who in ALA sets accreditation standards for teacher education programs; all of the Intellectual Freedom and Legislative resolutions were approved. The resolution that generated the most discussion was one dealing with how to get a higher participation of members voting in ALA elections. After much discussion, mainly parliamentary and procedural, the resolution was referred to the Executive Board. That's how decisions are made. BUT vote if you are an ALA member and maybe the issue will resolve itself.

If you want copies of any resolutions, etc. please call me at 253-1040 Ext.2063 and I will

gladly forward you any documents you wish.

Carol K. DiPrete, Assistant Dean/Academic Services and Library, Roger Williams College, is the ALA Councilor of RILA.

LIBRARIANS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN!

by Charlotte Schoonover

On the wintry afternoon of January 17, thirty South County librarians gathered by the fireside of the Carriage Inn in North Kingstown to enjoy Serendipity II.

From the germ of an idea of Dr. Liz Futas, Director of the URI Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Carol Anderheggen, School Media Specialist at the South Kingstown Junior High School, and Charlotte Schoonover, Librarian at the Kingston Free Library, met last spring to develop Serendipity, an opportunity for area librarians in different kinds of libraries who live or work in South County to meet socially for a few hours of good cheer. The first occasion in June drew fifty people to the Coast Guard House in Narragansett. It was unanimously agreed that day to meet twice a year. Thus, a new tradition was born!

Comments from attending and non-attending librarians have been most favorable. They welcome the chance to talk and exchange ideas with their colleagues, especially considering the varied nature of the group. All types of libraries have been represented: public and private schools, public, academic, and special libraries, and Graduate Library School faculty.

Future plans include another gathering in June, perhaps with the addition of a guest speaker or performer. Suggestions or offers would be appreciated and may be made to Charlotte Schoonover at 783-8254.

Charlotte Schoonover is a librarian at the Kingston Free Library, and Jobline Editor of the Bulletin.

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Personal Membership Application/Renewal Form

January - December, 1988

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

Street/PO Box _____

Town/State/Zip _____

LIBRARY or AFFILIATION _____

POSITION _____ BUSINESS PHONE _____

_____ Check here if your 1987 DIRECTORY listing requires updating.

_____ Check here if you do not wish to be listed in the DIRECTORY.

Are you a member of ALA? _____ YES _____ No

Please list below RILA committee memberships or offices held in the last two years.

DUES SCHEDULE

(Check category that applies)

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_____ \$17,000 and above	\$20.00

DUES PAID \$ _____

Contribution to ALA's Washington Office \$ _____

Contribution to RILA's Continuing Education Grant \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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Kingston, RI 02881

people

SUSANNE CASTELLUCCI has been appointed Director of Tiverton Library Services.

At the West Warwick Public Library, **RICHARD PAYETTE** has been named Assistant Director and **KATHRYN M. BLESSING** is now Head of Reference Services.

PATRICK W. WOOD recently became Director of the Foster Public Library.

DIANE SWINDLEHURST is the new Information Services Librarian at East Providence Public Library. Her experience includes work as a librarian at the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Diane begins work at the Weaver Library on February 29th.

Recent recipients of Medical Librarian certification are **LINDA WALTON**, Butler Hospital librarian, and **JOANNE ASPRI**, librarian at Kent County Memorial Hospital.

DESIRE PALMER, formerly of the Athenaeum, is joining the staff of the East Providence Library, as part of its Children's Programs. She will be doing craft projects and storyhour programs.

BETH SOUZA has been hired as the new Community Relations Coordinator at the Providence Public Library. Her experience includes work with USA Today and the Cable News Network. She will start work at PPL in early March.

KATE NIEDERGERKE began as Children's Librarian on January 19th at the Knight Memorial Library.

SUSAN SHEA has been hired by East Providence Public Library as the temporary librarian at its Riverside Branch. Susan has worked at the East Greenwich and Woonsocket Public Libraries and most recently served as Project Coordinator for the statewide "Is There a Rhode Island Style?" project. Susan will work at East Providence from February through April.

Apologies to **LOIS KALUNIAN**, newly appointed Development Officer at the Providence Public Library, for the misspelling of her name in the January-February issue of the Bulletin.

MERRITT FUND HELPS LIBRARIANS IN NEED

What is the Merritt Fund?

It's a source of funds for librarians who have been dealt with unfairly.

It's been called "the non-501(c)(3), non-ALA trammled, ready-assistance mechanism."

It's the LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund and it's there to help.

The Merritt Fund initially was established in 1970, as an arm of the Freedom to Read Foundation, to provide direct financial aid for the support, maintenance, medical care, and welfare of librarians who are or have been "threatened with loss of employment or discharged because of their stand for the cause of intellectual freedom, including promotion of freedom of librarians to select items for their collections from all the world's written and recorded information.

In 1975, The Merritt Fund became a separate entity, governed by three Trustees elected by its member contributors. At this point, its scope was broadened to include, in addition to the above purpose, librarians "discriminated against on the basis of sex, sexual preference, race, color, creed, age, physical handicap, or place of national origin, and/or denied employment rights."

How does the Merritt Fund help? The Trustees have recently awarded the following aid:

A Mississippi high school librarian, out of work for three years after being harassed on the job, received \$750 for medical care.

A physically handicapped New Jersey federal librarian, who suffered harassment and reprisals for using complaint and grievance processes, received \$1,000 for legal expenses.

A Massachusetts public librarian, fired for physical limitations caused by illness received \$500 for medical and living expenses.

A Canadian university librarian, who filed a discrimination charge based on race, color, or national origin with the province Human Rights Commission, received \$1,000 for legal fees.

A blind Texas librarian received \$1,000 for computer equipment to assist in becoming reemployable.

A New York public librarian received \$2,000 to assist in legal fees after filing a case of discrimination with the State Human Rights Commission.

The Merritt Fund, established in memory of a staunch defender of intellectual freedom, is supported solely by donations from concerned groups and individuals. Because direct financial aid is given to individuals, contributions do not qualify as tax deductions for donors.

Hundreds of persons have donated to the Merritt Fund, to support colleagues in need; thousands more should. Contributions, and applications for aid, should be sent to:

The Trustees
LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Information on the Merritt Fund supplied by Susan Vaughn, Senior Trustee, Merritt Fund.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

The January/February Bulletin's articles on the Providence Journal's electronic database J/TEXT are very informative and certainly indicate its potential for a number of libraries in the state. As with any fee-based service, of course, there are policy decisions to make. May we have some follow-up indicating the Journal's access fees? If any public libraries are presently using the database, it would be useful to learn how they handle financial arrangements. Do they, for example, pass online fees on to patrons or absorb charges themselves? Do patrons have direct access or do librarians do all searches? I'm sure we'd all benefit from learning policies and procedures they've established.

Sincerely yours,

Marcia DiGregorio
Providence Public Library

EDITORIAL NOTE: We appreciate Mrs. DiGregorio's bringing the subject of fee-based services to our attention, and will attempt to poll both the Journal and libraries who use J/TEXT and other database services on the matters of fees and procedures. We certainly urge those libraries using such services to write the Bulletin in response to Mrs. DiGregorio's queries.

RIEMA TO HOLD CONFERENCE

The Rhode Island Education Media Association (RIEMA) will hold its fifteenth annual Conference on March 16th from 7:30-4:00PM at the Community College of Rhode Island, Warwick Campus. Entitled "The Keys To The Information Age," the Conference features two keynote speakers: Dr. Marie DiBiasio, head of Project Literacy for the Rhode Island Department of Education who will speak at 8:15 AM on "Launching Project Literacy," and Dr. Julius Lester, author and storyteller and member of the faculty of the Department of Afro-American Studies and the Near Eastern and Judaic Studies Program at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst who will speak at 3:00PM on "Storytelling as a Way of Knowing Ourselves."

Also featured during the day-long session will be a talk by Avi, award-winning author, teacher and former librarian here in Rhode Island, a presentation on the work of the Rhode Island Film Commission by its Executive Director Amy Shapiro, and comprehensive discussions of "Funding the Humanities," and "Humanities Program in Libraries" presented by SUNY-Albany Dean, Dr. Gregory I. Stevens. Paul Drake, Serials Interlibrary Loan Librarian at Roger Williams College, will present a program on the Rhode Island Interrelated Library Network (RHILINET). Registration runs from March 2nd to March 16th and is \$25 for RIEMA/RILA members, \$35 for others. Early Bird registration (before March 1st) is five dollars less. Registration includes lunch and morning and afternoon refreshments. Checks should be made payable to RIEMA, and sent to Tim Tierney, The Audiovisual Center, 217 Chafee Road, URI, Kingston, RI 02881-0808. For more information, call Tim at (401) 792-4273.

calendar

jobline

MARCH 16: RIEMA Annual Conference, Community College of Rhode Island, Warwick.

MARCH 17: Young Adult Round Table, "TV, Movies, & Teens," 9:30 AM, Cranston Public Library.

MARCH 30: State Advisory Council on Libraries, 4PM, Cranston Public Library.

APRIL 10-14: ALA Committee on Accreditation visit to URI GSLIS.

APRIL 17-23: National Library Week.

APRIL 23: URI GSLIS Annual Gathering

APRIL 27-30: Public Library Association's Third National Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

MAY 23: RILA Spring Business Meeting, Cranston Public Library, 10AM - 4PM.

The Rhode Island Library Association has established a minimum recommended salary of \$20,000 for a full-time beginning librarian in 1988.

SUBSTITUTE SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST: Woonsocket Public School System. Must be certified as Teacher of Library Science by the Rhode Island Department of Education. Salary: \$50/day first 30 days and \$60/day on 31st day. Application available from: Louis R. Leveillee, Coordinator of Media Services, 108 High Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895 (401) 762-4440.

TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEAD: Directs and sets policies for all aspects of cataloging of all library materials; oversees operations in acquisitions, processing, and bibliographic database management; supervises staff of 5. Requirements: ALA accredited M.L.S., 3 years progressively responsible experience in technical services. Must have experience using AACR2, Dewey Classification System, LC subject headings, MARC formats, and automated cataloging (OCLC preferred), in addition to effective supervisory skills. Salary: low 20's. Submit resume and names of references to: Christina Callahan, Personnel Director, 59 Town Hall Square, Falmouth, MA 02540. The Town of Falmouth is an Affirmative Action Employer. Position available immediately.

NAME _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

LIBRARY _____ ADDRESS _____

Do you wish to be on the 1988 RILA Conference Committee?

If yes, would you be interested in working on:

_____ EXHIBITS

_____ PROGRAMS

_____ MARRIOTT

_____ PUBLICITY

If unable to commit yourself to the Conference Committee, would you be able to help with:

_____ TYPING

_____ STUFFING

_____ PRIZES

_____ REGISTRATION DESK

Conference Sub-Groups

EXHIBITS

Responsible for: Prizes
Finding Exhibitors
Forms/Exhibit Packet
Receipt of funds/registration forms
Set up of exhibits

MARRIOTT

Responsible for: Lunch/coffee
Room Arrangement
Equipment
Registration
Intern Program

PROGRAMS

Responsible for: Contacts
Ideas
Program Worksheet
Publicity
Follow up
Evaluations

PUBLICITY

Responsible for: State Associations
JMRT
RIEMA
RILA Bulletin
Conference Brochure

FROM THE EDITOR

With this issue of the Bulletin, we begin our first feature highlighting the work of RILA's committees. In the months ahead, we plan to introduce the membership to the kinds of work each committee does, who does the work, and why they do it.

The last objective is perhaps the most difficult to address. For many RILA members, the work done by our officers and committee chairs and members is vastly removed from our own library positions and tasks, and indeed, it is not unusual for many of us to assume that a clique "runs" RILA, and that its management of the organization has little to do with our own professional and personal lives.

Yet the word "professional" is the operative term. At the December 11th brain-storming session of the Executive Board, several of us, as a sub-discussion group, wrestled with the questions of "why be a member of RILA?" and "why be involved in its operation and management?" Answers to both questions are the same: one belongs because professionals join and become involved in their profession-

al organizations. With involvement, comes professional contacts, a working network of similarly-minded individuals, dedicated to doing a good job in their libraries, and doing it better, through professional associations.

Beyond the advantages of having a professional identity and a working network of professional contacts, participation in RILA committees can be sheer fun. By choosing a committee that reflects your talents and interests, and one which uses both, you may discover a way of finding parts of yourself that have been either dormant or undiscovered. Few activities in life give more pleasure than the effective use of one's talents for a worthwhile purpose.

At the risk of sermonizing unbearably, let me just urge you to give some thought to our various committees, and look into yourself to see where you might indeed fit into the RILA organization. RILA needs you, but at the same time, you may well discover that you need and enjoy it, too.

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